



Hunter Bird Observers Club

Affiliated with BirdLife Australia

Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc
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ABN 62 415 889 446

The General Manager,
Newcastle City Council,
Newcastle, 2300
Sent by email to mail@ncc.nsw.gov.au
Attn: Ms P. McCarthy

Re: Rezoning of 505 Minmi Road, Fletcher

Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc. objects to proposed rezoning of 26.2 ha land currently zoned as E4 at 505 Minmi Road.

HBOC understands that a resolution of City of Newcastle on 8 December 2020 nominated 505 Minmi Rd. for inclusion in the national parks estate. It appears that council advised the NSW Minister for Environment of this but is still awaiting a written response.

This E4 zoned block is covered in mature forest with continuous canopy and would go towards filling in a woodland corridor connecting the E4 zoned Eden Estates woodland through Blue Gum Hills Regional Park with Hunter Wetlands National Park Hexham Swamp precinct on the northern side of Minmi Road. Retaining this block as woodland will add to the value of Newcastle's Green Corridor extending from the Watagans to Stockton.

This Green Corridor has recreational and health benefits for the people of Newcastle by providing green spaces close to the CBD. It is also essential for the survival of listed threatened animals such as Squirrel Glider, Koala, Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot, all species which are present in the Newcastle LGA or adjacent Lake Macquarie LGA.

Hunter Bird Observers Club also wrote to you recently objecting to the proposed rezoning of several other bushland blocks as they are now a rare commodity in the Newcastle LGA. In view of the report this week on Climate Change, it is essential that **deforestation**, a contributing factor to greenhouse gas emissions ceases immediately.

Hunter Bird Observers Club supports the inclusion of 505 Minmi Road into the national park estate.

We would appreciate further information about plans for this site and look forward to a reply.

Ann Lindsey – Coordinator of conservation sub-committee for Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc.

13 August 2021